

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. It is my understanding that one of the proposed rule changes will allow large cooperations to acquire more venues in other broadcast media, thereby allowing them to consolidate their newsgathering resources and shrink their staffs. I oppose this move.

If what has happened to radio where I live is any indication, this is a terrible development indeed. Clear Channel's radio stations in northwest Wisconsin offer no variety in format, but worse they offer little live information. When danger of tornadoes is high in the spring, I try to tune in a radio station to find out the path of the storms but cannot find any information because all of the radio services are automated in the evening. I believe that a locally-governed radio station, with better knowledge of local interests would not leave a public early warning resource like the radio unstaffed for hours at a time. Their approach to resource consolidation puts my life in danger every spring and television stations are often no more sensitive to public severe weather concerns than are radio stations.

I do not believe it is right to trade public safety for the right to large-scale media consolidation. I urge you to delay the vote on this matter and hold much more extensive public hearings to find out how many other people feel as I do about the rule change proposal. I feel confident you will find out that a large segment of the U.S. population opposes it as well.

Thank you for your time,

Yours,
Joan Menefee